



2005 Farm Bill Programs Activity in the  
Republican River Watershed

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. It provides matching funds to state, Tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

FY 2005 FRPP Statewide Activities				
County	Type	# of Contracts	Acres	Federal Share
Boulder	Farm	1	63.6	\$95,656
Custer	Ranch	1	500	\$312,500
Gunnison	Ranch	1	103.6	\$203,956
Montezuma	Ranch	2	936	\$1,363,000
Pueblo	Ranch	1	440	\$231,000
Saguache	Ranch	8	4,606	\$1,734,520
Teller	Ranch	1	375	\$465,000
Total		15	7,024	\$4,405,632

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. It provides financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

FY 2005 EQIP Contract Funding in the Republican River Watershed			
Natural Resource Concerns	Applications Received	Applications Contracted	\$ Amount Approved
Water Quality/Quantity	41	5	\$119,656
Soil Erosion	39	23	\$319,084
Grassland	64	23	\$324,243
Animal Waste	28	24	\$1,431,683
Wildlife	5	2	\$11,733
Agro Forestry	44	32	\$60,824
CNMP	5	4	\$2,000
Ground and Surface Water	103	24	\$875,499
Total	329	137	\$3,144,722

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), a voluntary program, offers landowners technical and financial support to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

FY 2005 WRP Activities	
Number of Applications Received	22
Number of Applications Contracted	10
Dollar Amount Approved	\$3,090,800
Acres Under Contract	2,315
Statewide, another ten applications totaling \$4,483,489 are on the waiting list to fund 3,141 acres of easements.	

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

FY 2005 WHIP Statewide Activities	
Number of Applications Received	79
Number of Applications Contracted	33
Dollar Amount Approved	\$661,482
Acres Under Contract	11,215

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), a voluntary program, helps landowners restore and protect grasslands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. It emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland under the greatest threat of conversion.

FY 2005 GRP Activities	
Applications Received	10
Applications Contracted	0
Dollars Approved	\$0
Acres Under Contract	0

Republican River Watershed



Photos by NRCS Colorado Staff

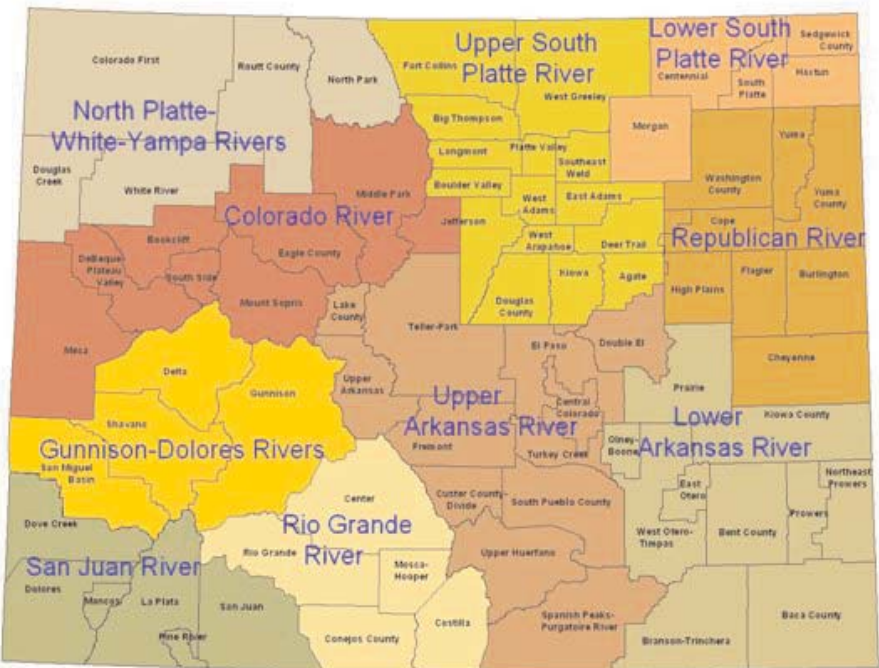


Watershed Profile

The Republican River Watershed totals 6,236,164 acres and includes all and/or parts of Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Washington, and Yuma Counties. NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Akron, Burlington, Cheyenne Wells, Hugo, and Wray USDA Field Service Centers, as well as at the Flagler and Yuma Conservation District Offices. These specialists provide technical assistance, as well as incentive and cost-share program information to watershed residents.

NRCS Colorado looks to each watershed to identify its particular local resource needs and priorities. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) provides leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level. In the Republican River Watershed, eight Conservation Districts organized a locally-led watershed work group which identified its major resource concerns as water quality and quantity, range-land, soil erosion, and tree conservation. Ultimately, the work group will set goals, identify programs and other sources to address its natural resource concerns, develop proposals and recommendations, implement solutions, and measure success.

Colorado Watershed Associations and  
Conservation Districts



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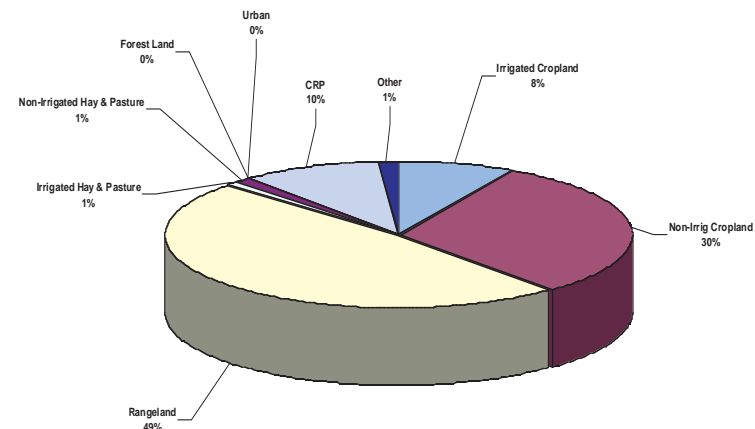
## High Priority Resource Concerns

as identified by a locally-led Watershed Work Group

Water Quality Water Quantity Tree Conservation Rangeland Soil Erosion

## Land Use

Republican River Watershed  
Land Use 2004



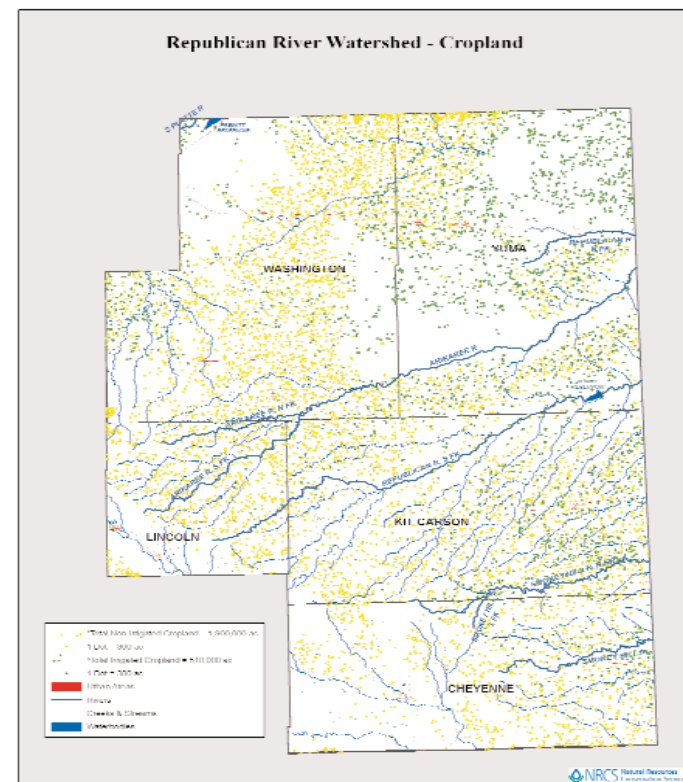
Source: Compilation of data from USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture; USDA-NRCS Natural Resources Inventory; USDI-USGS National Land Cover Dataset.



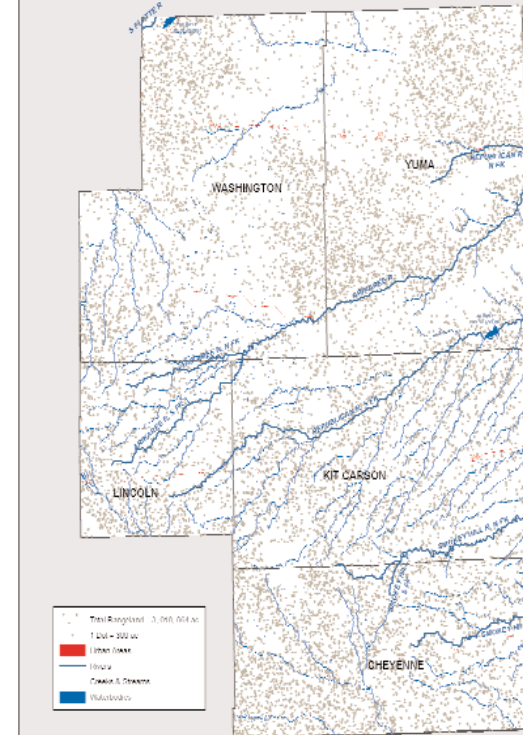
6,236,164 Acres

Acres

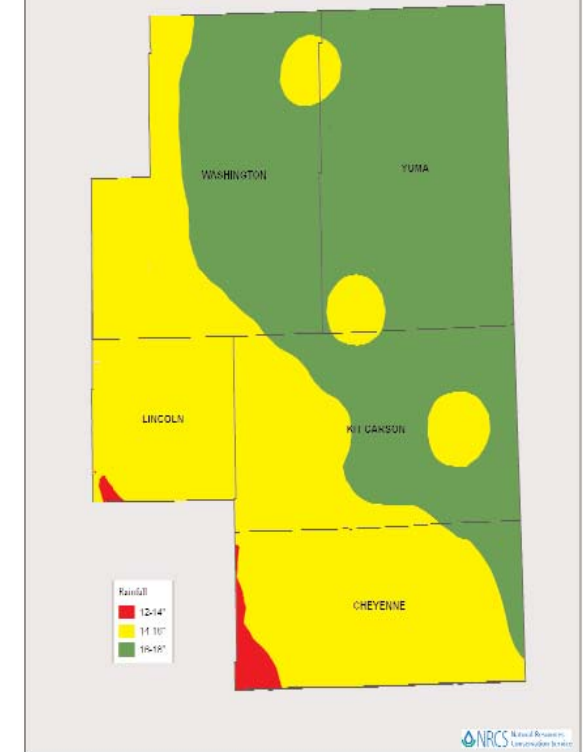
Irrigated Cropland	510,000
Non-Irrigated Cropland	1,900,000
Rangeland	3,018,064
Irrigated Hay & Pasture	47,000
Non-Irrigated Hay & Pasture	65,000
Forestland	900
Urban	9,000
CRP	596,200



Republican River Watershed - Rangeland



Republican River Watershed - Average Annual Rainfall



*The Republican River Watershed is located in the northeast quadrant of Colorado in the fairly arid high plains region of the state. The region is known for its many large concentrated beef feeding operations, as well as pork producers, sheep producers, and meat packing plants. Major crops include Corn, Wheat, Sugarbeets, Carrots, Onions, Sweet Corn, Squash, Sunflowers, Barley, Alfalfa, and Dry Beans.*